

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Household waste can be just as toxic to the environment and human health as industrial waste if not disposed of properly. Household hazardous materials (HHM) are categorized as hazardous if they are corrosive, toxic, flammable and/or reactive. Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous materials per year.



### Example: Drinking Water

- 79 percent of Iowans get their drinking water from groundwater sources.
- If improperly used and/or disposed of, HHM often end up in drinking water. HHM dumped in storm sewers can quickly contaminate surface water. Surface water is also used as drinking water and is critical for fish and aquatic wildlife and recreation.
- Contaminated water leads to water purity problems, often resulting in costly water treatment problems.

## Prevention of Excess Materials

- Purchase only the amount that you expect to use within a reasonable time frame.
- Purchase environmentally friendly products (i.e. [Safer Choice](#)®, [Biopreferred](#)®).



**BioPreferred**

- Use a [Paint Calculator](#) before you buy to determine the amount needed.
- Remember to keep water-based products from freezing (i.e. latex paint) to extend their useful lifetime.
- Redistribute unwanted materials or donate to local shelters.
- Inventory your house and dispose of old or unwanted materials.

## Examples of Household Hazardous Materials

- Used oil
- Pesticides/herbicides
- Solvents & lighter fluids
- Oil-based paint & paint thinners
- Fluorescent lamps/bulbs
- Cleaners
- Batteries
- Mercury thermostats or thermometers
- Bleach
- Pool chemicals



### Avoid Potential Risks:

- Never store hazardous products in food containers.
- Keep products in their original containers and never remove labels.
- Never mix HHM with other products. Incompatible products might react, ignite, or explode.
- Remember to follow any instructions for use and disposal provided on product labels.
- Call your local environmental, health, or solid waste agency for proper disposal options.

## Counties Collection Center Information

### Boone County

Boone County Regional Collection Center  
Call: (515) 433-0591 or  
[Website](#) details HHM drop-off information and accepted materials.

### Story County

Resource Recovery Plant in Ames  
Call: (515) 239-5137 or (877) 639-5661  
[Website](#) details HHM drop-off information and accepted materials..

### Marshall County

Marshall County Regional Collection Center  
Call: (641) 752-0646  
[Website](#) details HHM drop-off information and accepted materials..

### Polk County

Polk County's HHW Collection Facility in Bondurant  
Call: (888) 603-2739 or (515) 967-5512  
[Website](#) details HHM drop-off information and accepted materials.

If your county isn't listed, check the IDNR [Map of Regional Collection Centers](#) or call (515) 281-5859 or (515) 281-7982.

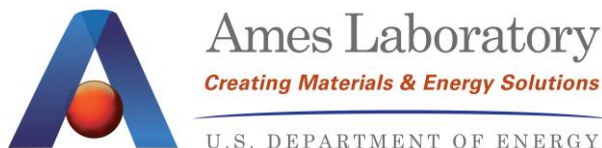
Some counties will hold single day events check you local newspaper or contact your local landfill.



### References

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Household-Hazardous-Materials>  
<https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw>

**DISCLAIMER:** You should contact your regional collection facility to make sure they can take the materials you have. Services are for household hazardous materials only.



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# Household Hazardous Materials



## PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

